

**IMPORT HEALTH REQUIREMENTS OF LATVIA
FOR BOVINE EMBRYOS FROM THE UNITED STATES**

The embryos must be accompanied by a U.S. Origin Health Certificate issued by a veterinarian authorized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and endorsed by a Veterinary Services (VS) veterinarian. The certificate must contain the name and address of both the consignor and consignee and complete identification of the donor dam and donor sire. Additional information must include:

CERTIFICATION STATEMENTS

1. The donor cow has been kept on the farm of origin for at least 6 months prior to embryo collection.
2. The United States has been free of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) for at least 5 years.
3. The donor cows producing embryos for Latvia have never had direct contact with sheep.
4. The United States has been free of African swine fever for at least 3 years; and has been free of foot-and-mouth disease, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, rinderpest, and peste des petits ruminants for the last 12 months prior to embryo collection.
5. The farm of origin of the donor animal/embryo transfer unit has been clinically free of bovine leukosis and paratuberculosis during the last 3 years prior to embryo collection.
6. The donor cows originated from a herd that was of negative tuberculosis and brucellosis status for at least 12 months prior to embryo collection.
7. The donor cows producing embryos for Latvia are not the result of semen or embryos imported from Great Britain or any other country where BSE has been diagnosed; and the semen used to inseminate donor cows meets the import health requirement of Latvia.
8. The donor cows producing embryos for Latvia have not had access to feed or feed supplements derived from internal organs and tissues of ruminants from any country where BSE exists.
9. All the embryos were transferred through 5 washes of phosphate buffered saline containing bovine serum albumin, then through 2 washes of .25% trypsin, Ph 7.6-7.8, for a total time in trypsin of 60-90 seconds and finally, through 5 washes that contained serum instead of bovine serum albumen. Each of the washes was a 100-fold dilution of the previous one, and a fresh sterile pipette was used for each of the transfers.
10. Only embryos from the same donors were washed and treated together. After the last wash, each embryo was examined microscopically to ensure that its zona-pellucida is intact and free from any adherent material.
11. The collection, treatment, and storage of the embryos was performed according to the International Embryo Transfer Society (IETS) Manual recognized by the Office of International Epizootics.

TEST REQUIREMENTS

The donor cow was negative to the following tests within 6 months prior to embryo collection:

1. Tuberculosis: Intradermal caudal fold test using bovine PPD tuberculin; and
2. Brucellosis: Standard tube test or standard plate test at 1:50 dilution (less than 30 IU/ml);

* A herd of negative status for brucellosis and tuberculosis is interpreted as a herd which the USDA veterinarian has no reason to believe is infected with brucellosis or tuberculosis.